AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

PORTO RICO PROTESTS ARE GETTING RESULTS

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 14.—A long editorial in the Times of this city indicates that the agitation by trade unionists in Porto Rico and the United States against social conditions in this island is groping effective.

A commission to be appointed by President Wilson to come to Porto Rico has evidently convinced the Times that the old order has passed and now it acknowledges that many things trade unionists protested against are true.

Labor's protests against the "un-American Gov. Yeager are indorsed by the Times in these words:

"They (the commission) may find that he is not much of a war governor, that his humanitarian principles are inconsistent with the genius of the American government, that his Americanism is weak, when and where it ought to be strong; in short, that he is a good deal of a misfit in the place—a political mistake, and too old to be repaired.

"In our opinion the governor cannot handle questions involving great industrial problems; and that is inherently unable to do so, but because it is too late in life for him to learn a new trade. So the commission will find the labor-industrial problem just where it has been for two or three quarters of a century, both sides."

The above would indicate that the sugar and tobacco interests and other large employers would be willing to make Gov. Yeager the scapegoat for debasing conditions they have forced on the workers of this island.

Another interesting portion of the editorial is its condemnation of Santiago Iglesias, president of the Insular Federation of Porto Rico Workingmen. Iglesias is also a member of the Porto Rico commission and hitherto his persistence attention has been called to deplorable conditions here. Now the Times is ungracious enough to say that Iglesias endangered life and property.

ARMY OFFICERS ACCEPT TRADE UNION'S THEORY

Washington, Sept. 14.—The ordnance department of the war department announces that "it has been found that where living conditions are bad, where housing arrangements inadequate, ordnance production lags."

The ordnance department supplies General Pershing with ammunition and its investigators have found conditions that must be removed before workers can produce their best. These hard-headed army officers now accept organized labor's theory, which has long been resisted by employers.

In several Alabama towns the "prominent citizens" are enthusiastic over their discovery and are glorying every aid to the ordnance department to make these places livable.

A public market has been established for the towns of Tuscumbia, Sheffield and Florence, where farmers dispose of their produce to representatives of government plants. Government transportation is provided to these factories, where it is sold to the workers at cost. Central bureaus for the same towns have charge of the housing problem and parks and play grounds are being planned.

Army officers report that an investigation of the large labor turnover in munition plants has shown that one of the overcrowded residence sections were back filling into private cellars because adequate pumping facilities. It remained for the ordnance department's welfare workers to show war munitions manufacturers that if the town's finances would not permit the purchase of a new pump, that it would be good business for them to stop their costly labor turnover by installing their own pumps. The manufacturers accepted the hint.

LABOR TURNOVER LARGE.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 14. — Poor working conditions in the Cleveland cloak, suit and skirt industry caused these employers to maintain nearly two persons employed for each job according to a survey by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

Investigators found that an average of 50 workers, and he was hiring new employes at the rate of "at least a dozen a week." This shows an annual turnover of 1,200 per cent. The investigators found that many unsanitary conditions of the labor turnover in this industry was caused by workers accepting positions without knowledge of later earning opportunities or better working conditions.

The investigators also said: "As is well known the Cleveland cloak and suit industry is not unionized."

This labor turnover has been called the "individualistic strike," by Secretary of Labor Wilson, who declares that the consequent shifting of workers from one employment to another is more costly to the country than all the strikes and lockouts combined.

Government Untangles Hugh Eastern Freight Car Blockade; Efficiency and Economy Replacing Managers' Wild Disorder

RAILROAD WORKERS GET WAGE INCREASE

Washington, Sept. 14.—Nearly 1,000,000 employes of government controlled railroads are benefited by Director General of Railroads McAdoo's order issued as supplements Nos. 7 and 8 to general order No. 27.

Supplement No. 7 affects all clerks, station employes, stationary engineers, firemen, oilers, machinists and turntable operators, and common laborers in shops, roundhouses, stations, store houses and ware houses. It contains general rules for promotion and adjustments of experience.

Supplement No. 8 affects all maintenance-of-way department employes working on tracks, buildings and bridges, and includes painters, mason and concrete workers, water-supply employes, labor gangs, etc.

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General Order No. 27 is canceled insofar as it applies to these employes.

The new rates are effective as of September 1, 1918. Back pay from January 1, 1918, not already paid out, will be made as soon as the rolls can be established in general order No. 27.

The eight-hour day is established for these employes with overtime up to 10 hours on a pro rata basis, with time and one-half thereafter.

SOLDIERS' MAIL DELAYED.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Government officials are insistent that letters addressed to soldiers in the United States military forces be correctly addressed. The mail of more than 50,000 of our soldiers in the United States and Canada cannot be delivered at all because of improper addresses. The war department is considering the advisability of all mail at the expiration of three months to the sender. This would save much time, and relieve disappointment and anxiety. It is stated that a large number of the improper addresses and occasionally to secret military movements, letters should reach soldiers at the front promptly.

The public is impressed with the necessity for addressing letters to Europe so that the soldier's rank, full name including his middle name, company or battery and regiment, as well as the branch of service, will be given. The return address of the sender should appear in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope.

STUDENTS IN ARMY.

Washington, Sept. 14.—More than 40,000 college boys responded to the war department's call for co-operation in training the new branch of the army, the students' army training corps. Plans are being made to convert fraternity houses and dormitories into barracks for the period of the war to meet this new emergency of training boys of 18 years and over in institutions used as cantonments.

The S. A. T. C. has two branches, the collegiate, to which men qualified by high school graduation are eligible, and the vocational section, to which grammar school graduates are eligible. Recruits will be procured by voluntary induction. Students will ordinarily not be in a deferred class but will be on active duty and on private's pay. High school graduates who wish to enroll in colleges this month to await induction upon application in October.

UNIONISTS IN ITALY.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The Italian ministry of shipping has cabled A. F. of L. headquarters of the safe arrival at Italian ports of the special A. F. of L. mission to that country. The mission is composed of James Wilson, president of the Pattern Makers' league; F. J. McNulty, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; John Golden, president of the United Textile Workers of America, and president of the United Hatters of North America, and Peter Josephine of the Granite Cutters' International association.

NO NEW SCHOOLS.

Washington, Sept. 11.—The war industries board has notified the board of education of New York city that only where there is the utmost need will a new school be erected for the war emergency continue. The war industries board will not give the slightest priority for steel and other material because every ounce of energy and material is needed in the war.

The board also points out that Secretary of the Treasury Glass has ruled that new public buildings are not necessary while the war lasts.

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 14.—The trade union movement in this city has been partially successful in its long fight for free school books. City authorities have instructed the board of education to furnish books and supplies up to and including the 8th grade. The workers will now use their influence to have the order apply to all grades and that the cost of education may be minimized.

WATCH MAKERS STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 11.—To secure a wage increase of $5 a week, 1,000 watch makers affiliated with the International Jewelry Workers union responsible for a strike.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Untangling a freight blockade of 120,000 loaded cars on eastern lines was the first work of the United States railroad administration, says Director General of Railroads McAdoo in a report to the president on things accomplished in seven months of government-controlled railroads. The report indicates that the director general believes he and his associates have brought order out of chaos at a most critical period of the nation's life and he rightfully proclaims this fact.

Other features of the report include surprising economies effected while efficiency has been developed to a high degree. This efficiency is indicated by the statement that the northerly trunk lines are used for through trains between the Chicago district and the east, thereby relieving the more southerly trunk lines from more than 1,000 miles of congestion in the Pittsburg district, where "congestion of local and through freight in the past has created some of the most costly and exasperatingly blockades that have been known in the history of American railroading."

The director general says that as the "pain and strife" between railroad presidents and other officers of the railroad companies were released and their places filled by men directly responsible to the director general. "This new machinery has come to protect the interests of stockholders and owners.

"Under private control of the railroads 2,325 officers, drawing salaries of $5,000 a year or over, were employed, with aggregate salaries of $21,336,197. Under government control 1,825 officials (a reduction of 500) are doing the same work, and the aggregate of their salaries is $16,705,396, an annual saving of $4,614,839. This includes the officers of the regional districts as well as the central administration in Washington, except the director general himself, who receives no salary.

Under private control salaries as high as $75,000 a year were paid. Now the highest salaries are paid to the regional directors (of whom there are 10), and they will hereafter range from $40,000 to $50,000 a year.

The expenses of late department heads have been cut about $1,500,000 annually without impairing the efficiency.

Competition has been abandoned and the consolidation of ticket and freight offices has saved over $10,000,000.

Discontinuance of advertising has affected another saving of $7,000,000.

Many unnecessary passenger trains have been eliminated. In the territory south of Chicago and the Mississippi river passenger trains traversing an aggregate of 21,000 daily miles a year have been done away with, and in the eastern district the saving approximates 26,000,000 miles annually. Other unnecessary trains are being annulled, the handling of special trains needless private cars has been discontinued and through travel is being directed to the natural routes. Now tickets are good on any route that directly reaches the point desired.

The same policy is being applied as rapidly as possible in the consolidation of freight terminals, with a saving of switching costs that will permit of the more rapid loading and unloading of freight cars. The director general, in that freight traffic from Los Angeles to Dallas and Fort Worth has been shortened over 500 miles because routing via the Southern Pacific railroad has been abandoned.

Ogden, Utah, Cheyenne, Wyo., fields to Montana and Washington points is routed via Billings, Mont., and a new route between Kansas City and Galveston has been developed over the 289 miles shorter than the 1,121 miles previously traversed. These instances indicate what is being done to relieve traffic and make possible the more intensive employment of both rolling stock and equipment.

To further illustrate the terrific waste under private control, the director general says that during a period of about 60 days some 8,999 cars were re-routed in the entire western territory so as to effect a saving in the aggregate of 21,000 miles a year. This has been done each car of 195 miles, equal to a total of 1,754,865 car miles.

Freight cars and locomotives are being standardized. It is estimated that there were 2,621 different styles of freight cars in service, and many different descriptions of locomotives when the government took charge. Back of the standardization has increased the difficulties of repair when the cars were on "foreign" roads. Parts were not interchangeable and often had to be telegraphed for. The railroad administration has ordered 100,000 standard freight cars and 1,630 locomotives.

The railroad administration has established a fire protection section and carries its own insurance, instead of giving the business to private insurance companies.

Wages have been advanced for all employes and the basic eight-hour day established. Women are paid the same as men where they do the same kind of work and no discrimination against negro employes is permitted.

Plans for the compensation of injured employes or the dependents of employes who may be killed are being considered. The director general also expresses the hope that "it may also be possible to arrange for the significant welfare work upon which, at a given age, as well as to provide for their purchase of life, health and accident insurance at reasonable rates."

The director general closes his report with this testimonial to his associates:

"Officials and employes have worked with such loyalty and zeal to accomplish what has already been done that it is a genuine pleasure to make acknowledgement of their splendid work. It is a constant satisfaction to be associated with them. You can rely upon their patriotic enthusiasm and adaptation to work out the ends of the war, in which they, as well as the soldiers at the front have vied with such laudable determination and patriotism."

"LABOR TURNOVER" LOSS OF EFFICIENCY

New York, Sept. 14.—In a speech in this city Secretary of Labor Wilson referred to labor turnover as the "individualistic strike" which brings a greater loss to the country than all the collective strikes and lockouts combined.

"Prior to the war," said Secretary Wilson, "there was nothing unusual to find establishments having a 300 or 500 per cent turnover annually, to find establishments having a movement of men from one job to another was so great that it required the employment of 200 to 300 workmen to maintain an organization of 100.

"This plan," said Mr. Lane, "has received the indorsement of so large a percentage of congress and the press of the country that it appears to be a probable program; it certainly is a practicable one. We have but 1,200,000 now for preliminary surveys and reports, but this will be increased undoubtedly by the next session of congress. There is enough waste and unemployment in the country to give every soldier a farm, but of course no such program is practicable because all would not want farms."

Land for U. S. Soldiers On Return from France

Washington, Sept. 14.—"We can have 300,000 to 500,000 every soldier who returns from France if congress will give us the financial support needed," said Secretary of the Interior Lane, who is taking advantage of every opportunity to press home the need for utilizing the millions of acres of waste land in this country.

The preparation of a program looking to placing returning farms for soldiers has been assigned to A. P. Davis, director and chief engineer of the United States reclamation service.

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NEW TRIAL FOR MOONEY URGED BY CHURCH WOMEN

New York, Sept. 14.—The committee on social justice of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross in the Protestant Episcopal Church of America has forwarded to President Wilson this plea for Thomas J. Mooney:

"We, the undersigned, beg to express our deep appreciation of your efforts toward the attainment of justice in the case of Thomas J. Mooney. In the disappointing failure of the constituted legal authority, by the verdict of a jury, to secure the due perversion of justice in the condemnation of Mooney to death by testimony without parallel in history, and remembering the danger at this critical time of compromising the testimony of America's loyal and liberal minded as well as of embittering labor, we respectfully urge upon you the conviction that you can render in the interest of equity in this case."

MORE GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

Washington, Sept. 14.—With the success of the Bolsheviki, according to Nelson Morris, American minister to Sweden, who is now in this city, he is issuing warnings against German starvation stories that emanate from that country.

"There is only no question," he says, "that there is a shortage of most of the essentials of life, but the idea that Germany is on the verge of starvation is erroneous and misleading. There is no doubt that many parts of Germany suffer from a marked scarcity of food and that in Northern Germany and in certain districts particularly as regards the farmer and land owners, even to the northern districts of Germany where the scarcity is most felt.

"In German Poland, in manufacturing districts of the most densely populated parts there has been a suffering quite visible in the emaciation of the people, but not naturally impaired the efficiency of the laborer of the state, which, per possesses full vigor, but it is a mistake to be... to that this has reached the point where a general revolution or any general lessening of the loyalty of the people.

"I have implicit faith in the invincibility of the military power being purposely kept in ignorance of the real conditions at the western front, not only as regards German civilian affairs, but as to the significance of America's entry into the war.

"It is to the advantage of our country and our cause that we should know the actual conditions and that the officials responsible for democracy so that we can more effectively direct our effort toward victory."

OPPOSE CHINESE LABOR.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Sept. 14.—Trade unionists have given notice that they will oppose the importation of Chinese labor into the Cape Breton mines. Government officials who favor this plan to bring Chinese into the mines instead of relying on secondary labor, declare that if the Chinese there are between 100,000 and 200,000 tons of coal banked at the mines. Formerly this coal has been stored away in the summer, but because of lack of transportation it has not exceed by the danger of combustion. If the present pile is not removed, the government officials say that the mines will have to close down this winter, and instead of discussing the importation of Chinese officials should have an out-of-work problem to keep them busy.

MOBILIZING NEGROES.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Steps to mobilize negro workers for agricultural and war munitions work are announced today by Secretary Baynes, director of negro economics for the department of labor.

Conferences with representative negroes in a number of states is resulting in the creation of state advisory committees, in addition to these committees, federal supervisors of negro economics have been named for Ohio, Virginia, Illinois, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida.

BIG PETROLEUM PROFITS.

New York, Sept. 14.—Clear profits of $5,726,000 for the Standard Oil Co. is reported by the General Petroleum corporation and the General Petroleum Company of California. These profits are an increase of $3,341,077 over the preceding year.

Before announcing this year's profits the most substantial sums were set aside for depreciation and exhaustion of oil lands.

SHIP LAUNCHED QUICK.

Seattle, Sept. 14.—The Skinner & Eddy ship yards broke all records here today by launching the 8,800-ton vessel West Humboldt 41 days from the day the keel was laid. The former record was 47 days. This week which recognizes the trade union movement, leads in the production of ships in the shortest time.

CIGAR MAKERS WANT MORE.

New York, Pa. Sept. 14.—Cigar makers in the Lancaster district are asking a wage scale which will

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HEALTH BOARD UPHELD.

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 14.—The state supreme court has upheld the state board of health in its fight against the spanish influenza court that a quarantined person be examined by three physicians, as he was deprived of his liberty during the quarantine, because he was not diseased.

The state supreme court rules that the state health board has supreme control of the situation under the police power. The effect of the decision stops inferior courts from issuing writs that would open the doors to those who claim to be wrongfully detained, which is a common plea of those in quarantine.

T. STOGIE MAKERS WIN.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 14.—Stogie makers on strike since June 24 have won their demand for increased wages. A conference committee having accepted their employers' compromise offer with the understanding that the matter would be referred to the national war labor board. Now the employers agree to the $2 a week demand and rates will be increased $2 a thousand for stogie makers and 1 cent a pound for stemmers. Cigar makers and Marsh factories were involved.

SIGN WRITERS WIN.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 14.—After a two-days' strike, Sign Writers' union No. 591 secured a wage agreement which calls for $7 a day for mechanics and $4 a day for assistants.

COOKS AND WAITERS GAIN.

Pittsburg, Kan., Sept. 14.—Cooks and waiters are securing better working conditions. Several of the largest eating places have accepted the new order of things.

TALK AMALGAMATION.

London, England, Sept. 14.—The powerful unions of shipwrights, blacksmiths and boiler makers are talking amalgamation at conferences to this end have been held.

INDUSTRIAL PEACE URGED BY BRITONS

London, England, Sept. 14.—While the British government is doing its full share in driving the German autocrat, the necessity for industrial peace after the war is not overlooked.

This is indicated by the ministry of labor's suggestions to employers and employes regarding the formation and powers of joint industrial councils recently advised by a government committee appointed to investigate industrial conditions, and which is now known as the whitley committee.

While the minister of labor lays down no hard and fast rules to govern the formation of these, it suggested that this thought be kept in mind:

"To secure the largest possible measure of a joint action between employers and workers in the development of the industry as a part of national life and for the improvement of the conditions of all engaged in that industry."

"In some cases," it is stated, "a joint industrial council of equal representatives of a number of trades which have been accustomed in the past to deal with matters in the past been dealt with separately by separate organizations or agreements shall not be dealt with by the council, as far as that organization is concerned, without the consent of the representatives of that organization."

The minister suggested that these joint councils consider not only hours, wages and working conditions, but all other phases of industry.

FEE FOR MOVING PHONES.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Postmaster General Burleson has ordered telephone companies in charge of the war stalling new telephones or changing the location of old ones, because of the necessity for conserving labor and material and to eliminate a cost which is now borne by the government user of the telephone. Where the rate is $2 a month or less, installation charges will be $5. Where the rate is more than $2 but not exceeding $4, the charge will be $10, and where the rate is more than $4 a month, $15. Moving charges will be the actual cost of labor and material.

PROFITEERS HURT CITY.

Seattle, Sept. 14.—Ship building employes are leaving the city because of rent profiteering, according to official of the Seattle North Pacific Ship Building company. He says nothing is being accomplished with the work of building ships as the greed of large numbers of Seattle landlords.

ELECTRICIANS GAIN.

San Diego, Cal., Sept. 14.—Electrical workers employed by the San Diego Consolidated Gas & Electric Co. have raised wages $1 a day, making the rate $6. The Hercules Powder company has advanced wages 6% per cent for its electrical workers, making the rate $6.16 a day.

BUTCHERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Sept. 14.—Wholesale butchers have accepted the new wage agreement of Butchers' union No. 508. Rates have been increased $25 a month.

WOMEN ON STREET CARS TO HAVE MEN'S RIGHTS

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 14.—The executive board of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes has met the demand for women street car conductors by accepting the principle that these women must have the same conditions as men.

The board stated that there is no necessity at this time for the employment of women, but in most cases that street car men are hampering the war and are not patriotic, the following resolution may dampen the ardor of those managers who would destroy wage scales and long hours:

"Where women are employed as conductors they shall receive equal pay and enjoy the same rights as men were employed.

"They shall take their seniority, starting at the foot of the extra list and working up the same as men, and would work up in the same employment.

"They shall be entitled to the same rights, hours of work and conditions that the men are entitled to.

"They shall, when employed, on systems that require permits to be bid out, be entitled to the same preference as men.

"When women do this work service they shall become members of the organization, being entitled to the full privileges of the trade union and subject to the same rules and conditions that men are entitled to, coming under the working conditions and provisions of the agreement in the same manner."

FOOD COSTS JUMP.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The federal bureau of labor has compiled data on retail prices of food as a whole in the United States increased 7 per cent in the one-month period, June 15, 1918, and increased 7 per cent in the one-month period, July 15, 1918, to Aug. 15.

Food as a whole shows an increase of 28 per cent from June, 1917, as compared with June, 1918. The smallest advance in this five-year period is shown in milk, with a 4 per cent increase; meats 6 per cent and eggs 55 per cent. Eight articles advanced from 50 to 74 per cent and three articles ranged from 78 to 87 per cent. Corn meal, lard and flour more than doubled in price.

RAISE WOMEN'S WAGES.

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 14. — A flat minimum wage of $12.20 a week for women employes under the jurisdiction of the state industrial welfare commission has been agreed to by a conference of employers and employed. This rate will remain in effect until Jan. 1, 1919, when a new and higher rate schedules that ranged from $8 upward.

UNFAIR ADVERTISING.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—The mail order house of Sears, Roebuck & Co. objects to the order of the federal trade commission to cease the use of "unfair, false and misleading advertising. The company has appealed to the federal court.

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 14.—Officers of the Switchmen's Union of North America report that locals in Buffalo, Boston, Gary, Ind., and South St. Paul, Minn.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Sept. 14.—United Garment Workers' union No. 178 has secured wage increases of $2 and $4 a week.

LATIN AMERICA LABOR WANTS UNITY WITH U. S.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Letters to A. F. of L. headquarters from Latin America indicate that the movement for a general conference of labor international conference at Laredo, Texas, next November will be successful in making event.

Throughout Mexico, Cuba, San Salvador and other countries south of the Rio Grande river the workers are agreed that they can be united for the first time for the workers of all Americas. This sentiment is particularly due to the visit of Samuel Gompers from officers of the supreme council of the San Salvador unions, who declare:

"We avail ourselves of the honor of sending our most fervent wishes for the welfare of the American Federation of Labor, it being our aim to keep in close touch with that powerful institution.

"We are already aware of the noble principles which are the constitution in Latin America, and of course, it encourages us, the more to be on friendly terms with those whose only aim is the final triumph of justice and liberty in this hemisphere, and to this movement there is now being published in San Salvador, by the Workingmen's Labor Press. This publication, printed in English and Spanish, is an organ of the Pan-American labor movement. It is edited by John Murray, James Lord and Santiago Iglesias, who formed the recent A. F. of L. commission to Mexico, Lord is president of the A. F. of L. printing department and Iglesias is president of the Free Federation of Porto Rico Workingmen. John Murray, a member of the Typographical union, is the well-known writer on Mexican life and institutions.

MORE ANTHRACITE MINED.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Anthracite coal production during the week ended August 31 totaled 1,896,121 gross tons, according to a report today by the geological survey. This increase over the preceding week amounted to 100,000 tons, and over the corresponding week of 1917 237,000 tons. These figures do not include coal used at the mines or sold for local delivery.

Of the total output, 1,202,812 tons were of prepared and pea sizes, and 693,309 of steam size. The average daily output totaled 301,019 tons, this being the largest for any week this year, the daily average went above the 300,000-ton mark.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

South Bend, Ind., Sept. 14.—The Malleable Range company has raised wages of its organized stove mounters.

Newark, Cal., Sept. 14.—Stove Mounters' union No. 61 has raised wages 25 per cent and secured a day rate of 48 cents an hour. The work day will be eight and one-half hours until September 30, when the eight-hour day will prevail.

ORGANIZE FOUR UNIONS.

Virginia, Minn., Sept. 14.—Since the last convention of the Minnesota state federation of labor, four local lumber workers have organized with a membership of 200; barbers with 75 members; electrical workers with 15, and section employes with over 200.

START CO-OP. STORE.

Sedalia, Mo., Sept. 14.—Trade unionists here have some employes interested in co-operation and are selling stock to start a store.

FULL SERVICE—EVERYWHERE

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

President Wilson's appeal to the coal miners of America presents in some measure his viewpoint as the administration on industry. This it does so forcefully and concisely that there can be no doubt as to the spirit purpose of the document. It has a general purpose that gives to it a general vice and lasting interest.

Worthy of special attention by workers and employers alike is the section of the statement in which the president calls upon operators in the United States. He suggests that bringing about efficiency of management and "the best possible working conditions" so that the opportunity to work at his best may be accorded every workman." Upon that reasoning rests the whole foundation of national war production. In addressing the coal miners the president also has clearly and emphatically addressed the whole national community of employers and executives. And he has addressed them exactly as they have been addressed from the beginning by organized labor itself.

It is labor's belief that conditions of employment should be the best, not merely for the reasons that have always held good, but now for the added reason that only under those conditions that are nearest just can the essential, unstinted, patriotic service be had or expected.

What certain types of employers may have considered matters of purely private concern in peace times now in war times are put squarely upon a plane of public duty. Labor, management and part there by the president of the United States. The best working conditions produce the best results in output is not due to any lack of patriotic willingness of workers under less favorable conditions. A seen planted upon a rock is perfectly willing to grow but it can not. That is all there is to it. The president himself points out that only with the best management of "the best possible working conditions" and "fair treatment to everybody" that the workman has "the opportunity to work at his best."

The stern tests of war have established as fundamental truths a great many things that organized labor has said for many years. And now that these truths are established, they will remain so.

It is some time since the government took its stand with labor for the basic eight-hour day. The "best possible working conditions" mean much more. Organized labor is fully committed to the principle of the war and the spirit of our people as a whole. It is in accord with that meaning and the spirit.

Moreover labor holds that no consideration of profit or of industrial efficiency be allowed to stand in the way of the highest national effectiveness in carrying the war to a triumphant conclusion. On that premise it has been labor's constant stand that it has a right to demand and get the best possible conditions under which to strive for its best war service. It has a right not to be handicapped by employers who are not yet out of the shell of times that pow have left far behind.

It follows that employers who do insist upon trying to impose upon workers are in a very direct and practical sense giving aid and comfort to the enemy. They are in the way of America's most effective strength war production.

"Massachusetts—the Turnover of Labor"

conduct of the war.

At the St. Paul convention, the American Federation of Labor set up as a minimum demand in the nation that neither workers nor employers should do anything that would not be justified in the time of risking their lives on the firing line in France. The statement just issued by the president reinforces that proposition.

As the president points out, we are all in the same boat, working with one spirit for one end. "Many who would wish to fight must remain at home to keep the organs of the country functioning full and free." Labor's great anxiety is that everywhere be full running over, effective to the last degree. To this end there is some employers who will need to read carefully what the president has said to them in this latest appeal of his for united effort.

President Wilson has laid down principles in which labor fully agrees because they were long ago laid down by labor itself as fundamental principles of democracy and humanity. Labor is determined to maintain these principles against unionism.